

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2010/08/30 : LOC-HAK-214-1-8-4  
REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF USSR FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO

Gromyko Arrives in Damascus

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Feb 75 BE

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister and CPSU Politburo member Andrey Gromyko arrived in Damascus a while ago on a friendly and official visit to Syria at the invitation of the Syrian Government. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Soviet ambassador in Damascus Muritdin Mukhitdinov. The visiting minister will hold talks dealing with matters of common interest.

Gromyko's Arrival Statement

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Feb 75 BE

[Excerpt] Gromyko made a press statement on his arrival in which he said: We have arrived in the friendly Arab Syrian Republic on a friendly visit. Our meetings and talks with the Syrian leaders have been an opportunity for an organized and fruitful dialog about a great number of issues which concern the two countries, particularly the issue pertaining to the settlement of the Middle East and the establishment of the firm peace in this area.

He asserted that the Soviet Union is still adhering to its stand supporting the just issues of the Arab people and its demand for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, safeguarding the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the resumption of the work of the Geneva peace conference concerning the Middle East to discuss all matters pertaining to the settlement in the area.

Gromyko affirmed that his country firmly and resolutely supports the Arab people in their valiant anti-imperialist struggle for the sake of consolidating national independence, economic independence and social progress.

Gromyko added: We are fully confident that the meetings and the talks with the Syrian leaders will contribute to continuing the consolidation of the friendly relations and cooperation in all fields between the Soviet Union and Syria and progress in achieving a just peace for all the peoples and countries in the Middle East.

Official Talks Begin

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Feb 75 BE

[Text] The official talks between the Syrian and Soviet sides began at 1730 today. The Syrian side was headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The Soviet side was headed by Soviet Communist Party Politburo member and Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. The talks were attended by the assistant foreign minister, the director of the East Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. The meeting ended at 1945 tonight.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the friendly relations between the two countries and the Middle East situation were discussed at the meeting.

Khaddam Hosts Banquet for Gromyko

Cairo Mena in Arabic 1918 GMT 1 Feb 75 BE

[Text] Damascus, 1 February--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam tonight gave a dinner banquet in Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko's honor at the Damascus International Airport casino.

**Khaddam, Gromyko Exchange Speeches**

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Feb 75 BE

[Report on speeches by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam at 1 February dinner in Damascus]

[Text] Damascus--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam gave a dinner banquet yesterday evening in honor of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, who is now visiting the country. The banquet was attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Muhammad Haydar and a number of ministers. It was also attended by Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Nuritdin Nuichitdinov, the Soviet delegation accompanying the visiting minister and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Andrey Gromyko exchanged speeches at the dinner banquet. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam made a speech in which he welcomed the visiting minister. He said: I take pleasure in welcoming you on behalf of the Syrian Government during this visit which comes within the framework of cooperation and coordination in important and complex circumstances.

Khaddam affirmed that Israel still continues its occupation, obstinacy and procrastination, which requires us--the Arabs--to be even more cautious and to struggle to achieve the total withdrawal and the recovery of the Palestinian Arab peoples' rights. He added that these complex circumstances require our people and government to work more to build up our intrinsic capabilities to recover the occupied Arab territories and the rights of the Palestinian people.

He added: We are also required to work seriously to consolidate the Arab solidarity which we consider as the cornerstone of our struggle against the Israeli aggression.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said in conclusion: We are confident that this visit will be one of the important means for consolidating and strengthening the relations between our two countries.

Andrey Gromyko then made a speech in which he said: The Soviet people and the Soviet leaders have realized through their experience the value of real friendship. They know well that the Syrian command--headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th party--attaches great importance to the bolstering and developing of Soviet-Syrian relations. The meetings which took place between them in mid-April of last year have an extremely great importance. At these meetings, they reviewed the most topical issues of interest to the two sides.

He said: You can be fully confident that on its part, the Soviet Union will continue expanding and deepening the friendly, fraternal relations with the Syrian people and bolstering the struggle the Syrian people are waging to strengthen their independence and for economic and social advancement.

Gromyko added that the Middle East situation is still complex and explosive and that this is because of the aggressive policy pursued by Israel and which is backed by the imperialist quarters. He said: From time to time, Israel and its protectors resort to the policy of intimidation. But there can be no doubt that the Arab people, who depend on the support of the countries friendly to them and on their growing unity, will not permit the imposition of peace terms in the Middle East which do not coincide with their legitimate interests.

He said: The Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community are seeking to resolve the Middle East question radically. We support the Arab countries' demand that the Israeli forces be withdrawn from all the occupied territories and that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people be safeguarded in response to their national aspirations, including their right to establish their state.

He added: World public opinion has received with considerable gratification the resolution passed by the Arab summit conference in Rabat which recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the interests of the Palestinian Arab people and the participation of the Palestinian delegation in the work of the 29th UN General Assembly.

He said: We wish for the Arab and valiant Palestinian people new successes in their just and heroic struggle. We are fully confident that our meeting and our constructive talks with the Syrian leaders will serve the process of consolidating Soviet-Syrian friendship and will continue to develop the constant cooperation between our two countries.

#### Al-Asad Receives Gromyko

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Feb 75 BE

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad received Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko at 1130 today. The meeting took place at the president's house. It was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Nuritdin Mukhitdinov. Discussion during the meeting dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union, the current phase of the activities aimed at achieving a just peace in the area, and the efforts being exerted toward this end. The discussions took place in an atmosphere of amity and friendship.

At the beginning of the meeting, Gromyko conveyed greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad from Leonid Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders. At the end of the discussion, the president asked Gromyko to convey his greetings and good wishes to Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders.

#### Talks Conclude

Damascus SANA in Arabic 0852 GMT 2 Feb 75 BE

[Excerpt] Damascus, 2 February--The official discussions between the Syrian Arab side headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Soviet side headed by Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister, ended at 1945 yesterday. The discussion touched on the friendly relations existing between the two friendly countries and the present Middle East situation. The official talks began at 1730 yesterday.

#### REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF ROMANIAN PREMIER MANESCU

##### Manescu Visits Al-Qunaytirah

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jan 75 BE

[Text] After visiting the liberated town of Al-Qunaytirah this morning, Romanian Council of Ministers Chairman Manea Manescu said: I have been extremely touched and deeply distressed over the great loss suffered by Al-Qunaytirah as a result of its complete and comprehensive destruction. Manescu added: The Romanian people deplore the destruction of towns and villages, their installations and religious landmarks wherever they may be.

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## CONTINUED REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO

## Al-Ayyubi Receives Gromyko

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Feb 75 BE

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Ayyubi received Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko at 0900 today. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Nuritdin Mukhitdinov. The discussion dealt with the friendly relations between the two friendly countries and the situation in the Middle East area.

An agreement on economic, technical and health cooperation between the Syrian and Soviet Governments was signed at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The agreement was signed for Syria by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Andrey Gromyko for the Soviet Union. The signing ceremony was attended by the members of the two delegations participating in the talks.

Gromyko will leave Damascus for Cairo soon after his official, friendly visit to Syria.

## Gromyko Departure Reported

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Feb 75 BE

[Text] At 1115 today, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Syria. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Assistant Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Ghani ar-Rafi'i, Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Nuritdin Mukhitdinov, a number of heads of diplomatic missions of the friendly socialist countries, the senior officials at the Foreign Ministry, and the members of the Soviet Embassy in Damascus were at Damascus International Airport to see Gromyko off.

## Joint Statement Issued

Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Feb 75 BE

[Joint statement on visit to Syria of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko]

[Text] Damascus, 3 February--The following statement was issued today on Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko's visit to the Syrian Arab Republic 1-3 February 1975.

At the invitation of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Soviet foreign minister, paid an official, friendly visit to the Syrian Arab Republic 1-3 February 1975. President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, received Andrey Gromyko, who conveyed a verbal friendly message from CPSU General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev. During this meeting, President Hafiz al-Asad held a general discussion with Andrey Gromyko.

The Soviet foreign minister also held meetings and talks with Mahmud al-Ayyubi, prime minister of the Syrian Arab Republic; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and other Syrian leaders. During the meetings, which were held in an atmosphere of complete understanding characterizing Syrian-Soviet relations, viewpoints were exchanged on bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East.

During the talks, the Syrian and Soviet foreign ministers expressed the two sides' satisfaction with the development and the strengthening of fruitful cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR. They stressed their two countries' resolve to continue to bolster this cooperation in the political, economic, commercial, cultural, scientific and other fields.

The two sides referred particularly to the great importance of the meetings between President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and president of the republic, and Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, especially the meeting which took place in April 1974, and in which basic issues concerning the two countries were discussed.

The following two documents were signed during the visit: the agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR, and the agreement between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Government of the USSR on cooperation in the health and medical sciences fields.

The foreign ministers of the two countries reviewed the tense situation in the Middle East and stressed that the cause of this tension, which is threatening international peace and security, is Israel's continuous aggression against the Arab territories and its refusal to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Proceeding from their common stand, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Soviet Union emphasize the need to put an end to Israel's expansionist policy and military provocations as well as the need for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories and the guaranteeing of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The two sides have expressed their conviction that establishment of just and durable peace in the region requires that the Middle East question should involve all parties concerned and should solve all issues resulting from the dispute.

The two sides express their firm conviction of the need to immediately resume the work of the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East under no circumstances later than by the end of February or beginning of March this year and with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the representatives of the PLO, to discuss all issues related to the establishment of just and durable peace in the region.

The two sides stressed the stand they announced in the joint Syrian-Soviet statement of 13 April 1974 concerning the importance of strengthening the defense capability of the Syrian Arab Republic as long as the Israeli aggression continues and the Syrian Arab Republic's firm and legitimate right to use all effective means to liberate its occupied territory.

The Syrian side stressed its stand that the Soviet Union must participate in all stages and fields related to the efforts to find a just solution to the Middle East question.

The Soviet side highly appreciated the efforts of the Syrian Arab Republic to strengthen Arab solidarity and the common action of the Arab states against the plans of imperialism and world Zionism. The Soviet Union also announced its determination to continue to render comprehensive assistance and support to the Arab peoples in their just struggle to strengthen their independence and to remove the effects of imperialist Israeli aggression.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Syrian leaders for the warm reception given him during his stay in the Syrian Arab Republic. He renewed his invitation to Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to pay an official visit to the USSR at a date suitable to both sides.

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## JOINT SOVIET-EGYPTIAN STATEMENT ISSUED ON GROMYKO'S VISIT

Cairo MENA in Arabic 1428 GMT 5 Feb 75 BE

[Text of joint Soviet-Egyptian statement on Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko's visit to Cairo--released in Cairo on 5 February]

[Text] Cairo, 5 February--The Soviet Union has declared its determination to continue giving aid and support in all fields to the just Arab cause and to the struggle of the Arab peoples for the removal of the consequences of Israeli aggression as well as for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Soviet Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt have once again affirmed their conviction that the Geneva conference on peace in the Middle East is the most suitable place for the discussions of the aspects of a settlement and both sides have called for the immediate resumption of the work of the conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

In the statement issued today on the outcome of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko's visit to Egypt which ended today, the two countries underlined the importance of regular contacts and consultations on matters of interest to both sides, including all aspects of the Middle East settlement.

The two sides also affirmed their determination to pursue the policy of expanding and deepening Soviet-Egyptian friendship and cooperation which are considered an historic achievement accomplished as a result of the great efforts of both the Soviet and Egyptian peoples.

The following is the text of the statement:

Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU and Soviet foreign minister, paid an official and friendly visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt in the period 3-5 February during which he held intensive talks with Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi.

President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received Andrey Gromyko. They had an extensive exchange of views in a cordial and practical atmosphere. During the review of Egyptian-Soviet relations, the two sides pointed to the extreme importance of the exchange of views between His Excellency President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, on the most important aspects of these relations.

The talks that were held during the visit dealt with matters concerning the development of relations between the two countries in the political, economic, trade and other fields between the two countries. During the visit the following agreements were signed:

--The consular agreement between the USSR Government and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

--The agreement on cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt in the field of planning.

--The program of cultural and scientific cooperation between the USSR and the Arab Republic of Egypt for the years 1975-1976.

It has been agreed that talks will be held in the middle of this month in Moscow between the competent Soviet and Egyptian officials on the economic and trade relations between the two countries.

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The discussions have dealt in particular with the exchange of views on the Middle East problems and the methods of settling it. The two sides have expressed their anxiety over the Middle East situation which is still tense and charged with the danger of the renewal of military operations. They pointed out that the reason for this is the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and the repeated Israeli attacks against the neighboring Arab states.

The two sides have asserted their firm principled stand that the establishment of lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Arab territories which they occupied in 1967 and the guaranteeing of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their national entity.

It was pointed out in particular that a Middle East settlement must be comprehensive; in other words it must involve all the parties to the dispute and solve all the problems stemming from this dispute. This settlement alone is consistent with the vital interests of all the states and peoples in the region and their endeavor to live in guaranteed lasting peace and security. This peace is in line with the interests of world peace.

The Soviet Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt have stressed their conviction anew that the Geneva conference for peace in the Middle East is the most suitable place for discussing all aspects of the settlement. The two sides call for the immediate resumption of the work of the conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the representatives of the PLO.

The Egyptian side has stressed its opinion on the importance of and the necessity for the participation of the Soviet Union in the settlement of the Middle East crisis in all its stages and aspects, including its participation in all the working committees which might be formed at the Geneva conference.

The Soviet side has declared its determination to continue giving aid and support in all fields to the just Arab cause and to the struggle of the Arab peoples for the removal of the consequences of the Israeli aggression as well as the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The two sides have affirmed that it is important under the friendship and cooperation treaty, the conclusion of which has further strengthened the firm foundation of the relations between the two countries, to hold regular contacts and consultations on topics concerning both sides including all aspects of the Middle East settlement.

The two sides have affirmed their determination to pursue the policy of expanding and deepening Soviet-Egyptian friendship and cooperation which are considered an historic achievement accomplished as a result of the great efforts of both the Soviet and Egyptian peoples.

#### AL-AKHBAR Comments on Statement

Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 6 Feb 75 BR

[Text] Cairo, 6 February--The newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that the joint Egyptian-Soviet statement, which was issued yesterday, reflects the adherence of both countries to cordial and friendly relations. These relations have played a positive role in many critical circumstances and have always achieved useful results for the interest of the two countries.

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE

February 18, 1975

No. 80

JOINT STATEMENT  
FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF  
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER  
AND  
HIS EXCELLENCY ANDREI GROMYKO  
FEBRUARY 17, 1975  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

As previously agreed, a meeting between Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State of the United States of America and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and Andrei A. Gromyko, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, took place on February 16 and 17 in Geneva.

They exchanged views on a number of questions of bilateral American-Soviet relations, including the various negotiations currently in progress between them, and on certain international issues of mutual interest. Both sides emphasized their determination to adhere to the course of continuing to improve Soviet-American relations in accordance with existing understandings and agreements of principle, which they firmly believe are in the interest of the peoples of the United States of America and the USSR and of international peace.

Both sides stressed the great significance of the agreement regarding the further limitation of strategic offensive arms reached in the course of the meeting between the President of the United States of America Gerald R. Ford and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, L. I. Brezhnev in November, 1974, in Vladivostok. On the basis of this agreement, both sides intend to continue energetic efforts to work out an appropriate long-term agreement this year.

It was noted that a great deal of progress has been achieved at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The two sides stated that they will continue to make active efforts jointly with the other participants to have the Conference successfully concluded at an early date.

They assume that the results achieved permit its conclusion at the highest level.

They also agreed that active efforts should be made to achieve positive results in the mutual reduction of forces and armaments in Central Europe on the basis of the principles referred to in the American-Soviet communique of November 24, 1974.

In the course of the conversations, particular attention was given to the Middle East. The two sides remain concerned over the dangers persisting in the situation there. They reaffirmed their intention to make every effort to promote a solution of the key issues of a just and lasting peace in the area on the basis of UN Resolution 338, taking into account the legitimate interests of all the peoples of the area, including the Palestinian people, and respect for the right to independent existence of all states in the area.



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The two sides believe that the Geneva Conference should play an important part in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and should resume its work at an early date.

They exchanged views on Cyprus. Both sides reaffirmed their firm support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus. They recognize the present Cypriot Government as the legitimate government of Cyprus. Both sides continue to consider that a just settlement of the Cyprus question must be based on the strict implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations regarding Cyprus.

The talks were held in a business-like and constructive atmosphere and both sides expressed their satisfaction with the results.

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## Report on Departure

Moscow TASS in English 1447 GMT 15 Apr 75 LD

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS--Saddam Husayn, deputy general secretary of the Regional Leadership of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq, today left Moscow for Bagdad. He stayed in Moscow at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government on an official visit.

At Vnukovo Airport Saddam Husayn was seen off by Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Andrey Gomyko, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, Boris Ponomarev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and other officials.

The farewell party included Murtada Sa'id Abd al-Raqi, ambassador of the Irawi Republic in Moscow, and heads of diplomatic missions of some countries accredited in the Soviet Union.

## Text of Joint Statement

Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1707 GMT 15 Apr 75 JN

[Text of joint Iraqi-Soviet statement of Revolution Command Council Deputy Chairman Saddam Husayn's visit to Moscow--read by announcer over both Baghdad radio and television; Moscow in Arabic to the Arab Maghreb at 2030 GMT 15 April also broadcasts the text of the joint statement. This Moscow version is identical to the following with the one exception noted on page F3]

[Text] At the invitation of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Soviet Government, Comrade Saddam Husayn, assistant secretary of the Regional Command of the Socialist Arab Ba'ith Party and deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council of the Iraqi Republic, paid an official visit from 14 to 15 April 1975.

Talks were held between A.N. Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and premier; A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister; and B.N. Ponomarev, politburo candidate member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council member; Minister of Industry and Minerals Taha al-Jazrawi, and Foreign Minister Dr Sadun Hammadi.

A comprehensive exchange of views was held concerning Iraqi-Soviet relations and their scope, in an atmosphere of amity and mutual understanding. The talks also dealt with urgent international issues, particularly the situation in the Arab area.

On the Soviet side the talks were attended by: N.S. Patolichev, Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade; S.A. Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; V.V. Juznetsov, first deputy foreign minister; General V. G. Kulikov, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Soviet armies; Soviet Ambassador to Iraq A.A. Barkovsky, and M.D. Sytenko, member of the Foreign Ministry collegium.

On the Iraqi side the talks were attended by: Iraqi Ambassador in Moscow Murtada Said Abd al-Raqi; Gen Abd al-Jabbar Sharshal, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces; Irrigation Under Secretary Afif ar-Rawi; Ambassador Director General of Protocol Abd al-Wadud Ash-Shaykhli; abd al-Latif ad-Dulaym; director general of the radio, television and cinema organization; and Ibrahim al-Wali, director general of the Political Division at the Foreign Ministry.

The two sides affirmed with profound satisfaction that friendly and cooperative relations of mutual benefit exist and continue to be strengthened between the Soviet Union and the Iraqi Republic. The two sides affirmed that these relations are based on the common interests of both the Soviet and Iraqi peoples in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism and reaction, and for the sake of social progress of peoples and the consolidation of world peace.

The two sides pointed to the extreme importance of the treaty of friendship and cooperation concluded between them in April 1972--the treaty that has laid down the long-term international basis for the continued development of friendly relations and helped to raise the level of such relations to a higher standard.

When questions of Soviet-Iraqi economic and technical cooperation came under discussion, the two sides pointed with satisfaction to the successes achieved in this field. They agreed that experts of both sides will meet in the future to study widening the scope of economic and trade cooperation between them.

The two sides expressed the desire to steadily seek to broaden and deepen cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Iraqi Republic in accordance with the present positive experiment.

The two sides pointed out that contacts between the CPSU and the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party in Iraq--contacts that have become stronger in recent years--play a major role in the successful development of Soviet-Iraqi relations in various fields. They affirmed their desire and readiness to deepen and broaden cooperation between the two parties on all levels and to exchange experience in the field of building the party and the state in the USSR and the Iraqi Republic.

The following documents have been signed: 1. A consular agreement between the USSR Government and the Government of the Republic of Iraq; 2. An agreement between the USSR Government and the Government of the Republic of Iraq on cooperation in the field of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

During the exchange of views on the current situation, the two sides affirmed that as a result of active work being carried out by the socialist countries, the national liberation movement, the nonaligned states and all peace-loving forces, the easing of world tension is gaining momentum and the principles of peaceful existence are becoming established in international relations. The two sides declared their welcome for these positive changes and that the Soviet Union and Iraq will exert efforts to make the easing of tension firm and irrevocable. [The Moscow Arabic version adds at this point the following additional sentence: "The Soviet Union expressed its satisfaction with the agreement concluded recently between the Iraqi Republic and Iran for the settlement of the problems between them."] Special attention was paid to discussing the situation in the Arab area.

The two sides pointed out that the situation in this area is still complicated and contains the threat of conflagration. The guilt for this falls on the aggressive policy being pursued by the Israeli ruling circles, supported by the imperialist forces. The continued aggression against and occupation of Arab territories and the squandering of the firm rights of the Arab Palestinian people.

The Soviet Union and the Iraqi Republic have stated that a firm and just peace in the Arab area cannot be achieved except by the liberation of all occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination.

The two sides asserted that cohesion among the Arab countries, based on anti-imperialism and strengthening their cooperation with their sincere friends--above all with the socialist countries--is the best way to achieve the successful struggle against the Israeli aggression.

The two sides asserted their determination to continue offering help and support to the Palestinian resistance movement which they consider a part of the Arab and world national liberation movement. They referred to the political victories achieved by the Palestinian resistance movement at the international level and the role of the peace-loving countries, foremost the Arab states and friendly socialist countries.

When discussing the current international situation, the two sides agreed that the imperialist threat to use force against the oil producing countries is an attempt to interfere blatantly in the domestic affairs of these countries, proceeding directly against the interests of the oil consuming countries themselves.

The Soviet Union and the Iraqi Republic reaffirmed their support for the efforts being exerted by the DRV Government and the PRGRSV aimed at guaranteeing the achievement of the Paris agreement on Vietnam. They strongly denounce the acts of foreign imperialism and domestic reactionism which are impeding the establishment of a just and firm peace in Indochina. They consider it is necessary that the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia should be given the possibility of determining their affairs by themselves, without any foreign intervention.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the successes scored in the struggle for the sake of completely wiping out colonialism and racism. They assert their determination to fully achieve the UN declaration granting independence to colonies and their peoples.

In accordance with this principled plan, the Soviet Union and the Iraqi Republic declare they will continue in the future to give comprehensive support to the peoples who are still living under the yoke of colonialism, and the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America. They call for wiping out the racist regimes in the Republic of South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia which constitute sources of serious tension in South Africa.

The Soviet Union and Iraq agree to endeavor to reach general and full disarmament. The two sides view the world disarmament conference as a great participant in solving the urgent disarmament issues. They asserted their desire for the extension of this conference by all means. They attach great importance to the treaty of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and consider that the conference on the effectiveness of this treaty, which will be held in May 1975 in Geneva, will tangibly contribute to further strengthening the said treaty and expanding its membership.

The Soviet Union and Iraq will continue to exert their efforts for the sake of promoting the effectiveness of the United Nations to preserve world peace and develop international cooperation, based on implementation of the UN Charter.

The two sides have satisfactorily pointed out that Saddam Husayn's visit to the Soviet Union, as well as the meetings and contacts which took place during this visit, have greatly contributed to continuously expanding and deepening Iraqi-Soviet relations in the interest of the two countries peoples.

Saddam Husayn has expressed his thanks to the Soviet leaders for the friendly reception and hospitality accorded him and his delegation in the Soviet Union.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

## Leaders Attend Signing, Departure

[Editorial Report ID] Moscow PRAVDA on 16 April publishes on its front page a report on the signing of agreements between the USSR and Iraq. The paper lists P. Ya. Strautmanis, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Deputy Premiers Arkhipov, Dymshits, and Muriyev as being present in addition to the leaders reported present in the Moscow Domestic account published on page P 1 of the 16 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

The same issue of PRAVDA, also on the front page, carries a report on the final Soviet-Iraqi talks. Participating in the talks, according to PRAVDA, in addition to those leaders mentioned in the TASS English report on page P 1 of the same issue of the DAILY REPORT, were:

"On the Soviet side--N. S. Patolichev, USSR minister of foreign trade; S.A. Skachkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; V.V. Kuznetsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister; Army General V.G. Kulikov, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces and USSR first deputy defense minister; B.T. Batsanov and Yu. V. Firsov, assistants to the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; A.A. Barkovskiy, Soviet ambassador to Iraq; M.D. Sytenko, member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium and other officials; and On the Iraqi side--Taha al-Jazraw, member of the Revolutionary Command Council, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Leadership, and minister of industry and minerals; Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi; Col Gen 'Abd al-Jabar Shanshal, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; 'Afif ar-Ra'ufi, deputy minister of irrigation; M.S. 'Abd al-Baqi, Iraqi ambassador to the USSR; 'Abd al-Wadud ash-Shaykhli, director general of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department; Ibrahim al-Wali, director general of the Foreign Ministry Political Department; and other officials.

On pages 1 and 4, the 16 April issue of PRAVDA also carries a report on the departure of the Iraqi delegation, listing the following as being present at Vnukovo Airport in addition to those mentioned in the TASS report on page P 2 of the 16 April DAILY REPORT: I.V. Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; A.A. Barkovskiy, Soviet ambassador to Iraq, USSR Ministers T.B. Guzhenko, V.D. Shashin, and B. Ye. Shcherbin; State Committee Chairmen A.M. Petrosyants and S.A. Skachkov; USSR First Deputy Ministers V.V. Kuznetsov and Army General V.G. Kulikov; V.S. Shaposhnikov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section; M.D. Sytenko, member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium, and D.S. Nikoforov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Protocol Division.

## PRAVDA Carries Communique

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 75 pp 1, 4 ID

[Presumed text of "Soviet-Iraqi joint communique"]

[Text] Saddam Husayn, deputy general secretary of the Ba'th Party regional leadership and deputy chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] was in the Soviet Union on an official visit from 14 through 15 April 1975 at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government.

Talks took place between A.N. Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; B.N. Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee; and S. Husayn; T. al-Jazrawi, member of the RCC, member of the Ba'th Party regional leadership, and minister of industry and minerals; and S. Hammadi, foreign minister.

In the course of the meetings and talks, which took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding, there was an exchange of views on the state and development prospects of Soviet-Iraqi relations, the Near East situation, and other urgent international problems.

Participating in the talks were:

On the Soviet side--N.S. Patolichev, USSR minister of foreign trade; S.A. Skachkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; V.V. Kuznetsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister; Army Gen V.G. Kulikov, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister; A.A. Barkovskiy, Soviet ambassador to Iraq; and M.D. Sytenko, member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium; and

On the Iraqi side--Murtada Sa'id 'Abd al-Baqi, Iraqi ambassador to the USSR; Gen 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, chief of general staff; 'Afif ar-Ra'ufi, deputy minister of irrigation; 'Abd al-Wadud ash-Shaykhli, director general of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department; 'Abd al-Latif ad-Dulaymi, director general of radio and television; and Ibrahim al-Walid, director general of the Foreign Ministry Political Department.

It was noted with profound satisfaction that relations of friendship and mutually advantageous cooperation on the mutuality of the Soviet and Iraqi peoples' interests in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism, and reaction and for the peoples' social progress and the strengthening of universal peace have been established between the Soviet Union and Iraq and are constantly strengthening.

The sides noted the exceptional importance of the friendship and cooperation treaty concluded in April 1972, which laid a long-term foundation in international law for further consolidation of friendly relations and helped to raise them to a higher level. During their discussion of Soviet-Iraqi economic and technical cooperation, the sides noted with satisfaction the successes in this field.

It was agreed that competent Iraqi and Soviet representatives will meet in the very near future to formulate and agree the prospects for further developing Soviet-Iraqi economic cooperation and trade.

A firm desire was expressed to continue to broaden and deepen the fruitful cooperation between the USSR and Iraq in other fields too, relying on the positive experience already accumulated.

The sides stressed that ties between the CPSU and the Ba'th Party--which have strengthened in recent years--play a great role in successful development of Soviet-Iraqi relations in various fields. They confirmed their readiness to steadily improve interparty cooperation at all levels and to develop interchange of experience in the field of the party and state building of the USSR and Iraq.

The following documents were signed during the visit:

1. A consular convention between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Iraqi Republic.

2. An agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Iraqi Republic on cooperation in utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

When exchanging opinions on the present international situation, the sides noted that the process of the relaxation of international tension is deepening and the principles of peaceful coexistence are being asserted in relations between states as a result of the vigorous actions of the socialist countries, the national liberation movement, the nonaligned countries and all peace-loving forces. Welcoming these positive changes, the sides stated that the Soviet Union and Iraq will make efforts to insure that the process of detente assumes an irreversible nature.

The Soviet side expressed satisfaction in connection with the recent agreement to settle problems existing between Iraq and Iran.

Particular attention was devoted to an examination of the situation in the Near East. The sides stressed that the situation in this region remains complex and explosive through the fault of the ruling Israeli circles, who are continuing the policy of aggression, occupying Arab lands and flouting the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, relying on the imperialist forces' support.

The Soviet Union and Iraq state that a just and stable peace in the Near East can be established only under conditions that all occupied Arab territories are liberated and the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination, are insured.

The sides confirmed that the most important factor for insuring success in the struggle against Israeli aggression is the cohesion of the Arab states on an anti-imperialist basis and the consolidation of cooperation with their genuine friends, primarily the socialist countries.

The sides confirmed their intention to continue to give aid and support to the Palestinian resistance movement, which they regard as an integral part of the Arab and international national liberation movement. The sides noted the political successes achieved by the Palestinian resistance movement in the international arena and the role which the peace-loving countries headed by the Arabs' friends--the socialist states--played in this matter.

When discussing the international situation the sides agreed that the imperialist threat to use force against the oil-extracting countries is an attempt at direct interference in the domestic affairs of these countries and contradicts the interests of the oil-consuming countries themselves.

The Soviet Union and Iraq reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the DRV Government and the PRGSRV to insure the implementation of the Paris Vietnam agreement. They resolutely condemn the actions of foreign imperialist forces and internal reaction, which are obstructing the process of establishing a stable and just peace in Indochina, and they consider that the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia should be given the opportunity to decide their affairs without any outside interference whatever.

The sides expressed their satisfaction with the successes achieved in the struggle for the final liquidation of colonialism and racism and confirm their resolve to strive for the complete implementation of the UN declaration on granting independence to the colonial countries and peoples. Guided by this principled line, the Soviet Union and Iraq state that they will continue to give every possible support to the peoples who are still under the yoke of colonialism and racism and to the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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They advocate the liquidation of the racist regimes in South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia, which are a dangerous hotbed of tension in southern Africa.

The Soviet Union and Iraq are unanimous in their desire to achieve general and complete disarmament. The sides consider that a world disarmament conference could make a big contribution to the solution of urgent disarmament problems and they confirmed their readiness to promote in every way the convening of such conference.

They attach important significance to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and consider that the conference to examine the validity of this treaty, which is to be held in May 1975 in Geneva, should make a substantial contribution to the cause of further strengthening the nonproliferation treaty and expanding its circle of signatories.

The Soviet Union and Iraq will continue to make efforts to raise the effectiveness of the United Nations in maintaining general peace and developing international cooperation on the basis of the strict observance of its charter.

It was noted with satisfaction that S. Husayn's visit to the USSR and the meetings and talks which have been held are a new contribution to the further expansion and deepening of Soviet-Iraqi relations in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

S. Husayn expressed gratitude to the leaders of the Soviet Union for the warm reception and hospitality accorded him and the people accompanying him.

TASS NOTES SYRIAN NATIONAL DAY, LEADERS' MESSAGE

Moscow TASS in English 1929 GMT 16 April 75 LD

[Excerpts] Moscow April 16 TASS--TASS Commentator Piotr Lyusin writes: The coming to power in February 1966 of representatives of the left wing of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party as well as the corrective movement of 1970 which was headed by President Hafez al-Asad greatly contributed to Syria's successful advancement along the road of social and economic progress. These events paved the way for a close consolidation of all of the country's anti-imperialist patriotic forces which was manifested in the establishment in March 1972 of the Progressive National Front, within the framework of which is developing the cooperation of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party with the Syrian Communist Party and other patriotic organizations. Progressive socio-economic gains have been achieved. The tasks of building an advanced socialist society have been sealed in the permanent constitution of Syria which also contributed to the strengthening of the inter-political union of the Syrian people.

Syria won high international prestige by its firm line of struggle against imperialism and the Israeli aggression, towards strengthening of inter-Arab solidarity on an anti-imperialist basis, the struggle for a radical settlement of the Middle East crisis on the basis of (total) withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab lands and restoration of the legitimate national (rights) of the Arab people of Palestine.

The Syrian people fully supports the line towards all-round development and strengthening of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community.



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In conclusion, Fahmi said: I was happy to meet with Comrade Brezhnev and to hear his truthful words about Egypt and President as-Sadat.

I also view the intensive talks I have held with Comrade Gromyko with satisfaction.

In reply, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko said: I share the feelings you have expressed in your speech. You have positively assessed the talks you have held with Comrade Brezhnev and with me. We share your appreciation of their results and we believe that this time they will be beneficial to Egyptian-Soviet relations.

Every time the Egyptians and Soviets meet they discuss many topics concerning cooperation in various fields. This means that our relations are manifold and are developing in various domains. There are many issues that we discuss in order to strengthen these relations.

(?As usual), we give special importance to our relations in the political field and we appreciate all that we have achieved in our relations with you. [words indistinct]

With regard to our attitude toward the Middle East crisis, we need not repeat it, for you have heard our (?confirmation) of this attitude from Comrade Brezhnev.

#### Gromyko Concludes Fahmi Talks

Moscow TASS in English 1326 GMT 21 Apr 75 LD

[Text] Moscow April 21 TASS--The foreign ministers of the USSR and Egypt Andrey Gromyko and Isma'il Fahmi concluded their exchange of views today.

The ministers discussed in a friendly atmosphere a wide range of questions of Soviet-Egyptian relations as well as international issues of mutual interest, including the situation in the Middle East.

#### ~~Joint Egyptian-Soviet Statement~~

Cairo MENA in Arabic 1622 GMT 21 Apr 75 JN

[Text] Moscow, 21 April--The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Soviet Union today asserted that the situation in the Middle East will remain explosive as a result of the continued aggressive policy pursued by Israel and the imperialist forces that support it.

The two sides assert that without the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and without preservation of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people--including their right to establish a national state for themselves--it will be impossible to establish a lasting and just peace in the Middle East that would insure the independent existence of all the countries of the area.

This was contained in the joint statement issued today on the 19-22 April visit to the USSR by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi.

The two sides also affirm their insistence on continuing efforts to deepen and strengthen bilateral relations in the interest of the two peoples.

The following is text of the joint Egyptian-Soviet statement:

During the period 19 to 22 April 1975, Isma'il Fahmi paid an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet leadership.

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Leonid Brezhnev received Isma'il Fahmi and discussed with him bilateral relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union and certain pressing international issues, particularly the Middle East.

Isma'il Fahmi conveyed to Brezhnev an oral message from President Anwar as-Sadat. At the same time, talks were held between Gromyko and Fahmi in a friendly atmosphere characterized by a business-like spirit.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed their firm determination to continue work in order to develop relations between them--relations that are founded on a solid basis represented by the cooperation and friendship treaty between Egypt and the Soviet Union. The two sides also expressed their determination to continue to exert efforts aimed at deepening these relations and further strengthening them in the interests of the peoples of both countries.

The two sides assert that the situation in the Middle East will remain explosive as a result of the continued aggressive policy pursued by Israel and the imperialist forces supporting it.

The two sides affirm that without the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the preservation of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people--including their right to establish a national state for themselves--it will be impossible to establish a lasting and just peace in the Middle East that would insure the independent existence of all the countries of the area.

The Soviet Union and Egypt, proceeding from their firm and principled stand toward the question of achieving a settlement in the Middle East, declare that they will exert their utmost efforts in order to reach a solution to the Middle East problem, providing that it be a comprehensive and radical solution based on the full implementation of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly resolutions.

The views of the Soviet Union were in agreement concerning the need for the Geneva conference on peace in the Middle East to resume its work at the earliest possible moment.

[Cairo Domestic in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 21 April reports this statement as follows: "The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Soviet Union stress that the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East must resume its work at the earliest possible moment."]

They also stress the importance of earnestly preparing for the conference so that it will lead to final, comprehensive and complete solutions to the Middle East problem.

[Cairo Domestic in Arabic at 0700 on 22 April reports this statement as follows: "They also stress the importance of earnestly preparing for the conference so that it will lead to reaching final, comprehensive and complete solutions to the Middle East problem and that any partial measures or decisions on them must be an integral part of the overall settlement and must be decided on and implemented within the framework of the Geneva Middle East peace conference."]

The two sides affirm the need for the participation of representatives of the PLO at the Geneva conference provided they have the same rights as those enjoyed by other participants in the conference.

The two sides express their belief that the visit Isma'il Fahmi paid to the Soviet Union has played a positive role in strengthening understanding and developing friendly relations.

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During the meeting views were exchanged on the situation in the Middle East and questions connected with a settlement in the region and on the prospects of solving the Palestinian problem. Andrey Gromyko and Yasir 'Arafat once again stressed that, without guaranteeing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and without guaranteeing their right to establish their own entity, it will be impossible to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East. The significance of participation by representatives of the Palestinian Arab people, enjoying equal rights, with the rest of the parties concerned in the efforts to achieve a settlement in the Middle East was underlined.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of complete friendship and understanding.

# PRAVDA PUBLISHES TEXT OF SOVIET-SYRIAN COMMUNIQUE

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Apr 75 p 5 LD

[Text also carried by Moscow TASS in English at 1400 GMT on 26 April, and by Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 1218 GMT on 26 April, which identifies it as a joint statement"]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS--Follows the text of a Soviet-Syrian communique:

Abd al-Halim Khaddam, member of the leadership of the Arab Ba'th Party, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of foreign affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, stayed in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit from April 23 to 25, 1975, at the invitation of the Soviet leadership.

A.H. Khaddam was received by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. During a conversation which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, there was a wide exchange of opinions on matters of Soviet-Syrian relations as well as the situation in the Middle East.

At the meeting, A.H. Khaddam delivered a friendly verbal message to L.I. Brezhnev from Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Ba'th Party, president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

A.A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and A.H. Khaddam, member of the leadership of the Arab Ba'th Party, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of foreign affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, had talks on matters of bilateral relations, the international situation and the situation in the Middle East. The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and complete mutual understanding.

The two sides noted with satisfaction successful development of all-round cooperation between the two countries and emphasized that the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic consider it an important task of their foreign policy to further develop and deepen their friendly relations.

They are determined to make efforts so that these relations are filled with increasingly rich content in the political and economic, scientific, cultural and other fields. It was reaffirmed that the Soviet Union and Syria will continue to give a firm rebuff to any attempts to undermine their friendship and cooperation.

The two sides pointed out that meetings between L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Ba'th Party, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, are of particular importance and make an important contribution to the cause of strengthening and further developing Soviet-Syrian friendship and cooperation in all fields.

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While considering the current international situation, the two sides noted the strides which the people have achieved in the struggle for national liberation, for international peace and security, and for the establishment of equality in international political and economic relations. They reaffirmed a mutual striving to help the relaxation of tension acquire an irreversible character and spread it to all parts of the world.

The two sides emphasized the importance of victories won by the peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia and stated that the problems of those countries should be resolved by their peoples without any interference from the outside.

While considering the situation in the Middle East, the Soviet Union and Syria reaffirmed that the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands and Israel's refusal to recognize the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine are the cause of the continued explosive situation in the area. They stated that the interests of universal peace require fulfillment of the corresponding UN decisions on the Middle East and an end to Israeli provocations against Arab countries.

[Moscow TASS in English renders this phrase "...compliance with the UN resolutions..." Damascus Domestic in Arabic renders it as "...implementation of the UN resolutions..."]

The two sides reaffirmed their conviction that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can only be established provided Israel withdraws its troops from the Arab territories it captured and through satisfying the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to create a national home. The Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to make vigorous efforts to attain these ends. They state that separate agreements cannot insure a solution to the problem of Middle East settlement.

Damascus Domestic renders this passage: "The two sides again expressed their conviction that the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through Israel's total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and the recovery of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to set up an independent national entity. The Syrian Arab Republic and the Soviet Union will continue to exert all efforts to attain these objectives. The two sides announced that individual [munfaridah] steps cannot lead to settlement of the Middle East issue."

The two countries' position was reaffirmed on the need for resumption of the Geneva Middle East peace conference at the earliest date, with thorough preparation for and participation of all the sides concerned, including representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization on equal status with the other participants in the conference. Any partial measures should be a constituent, integral part of an overall settlement, and decisions on them must be worked out and made within the framework of the Geneva conference.

The two sides again reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the defence potential of the Syrian Arab Republic under conditions of continued Israeli aggression, as well as Syria's right to use all means to free the occupied Syrian territories.

The Soviet Union highly appreciates the Syrian Arab Republic's political course which meets the interests of peace in the Middle East and throughout the world, as well as her efforts to consolidate Arab solidarity and strengthen the unity of action of Arab countries in the struggle against the Israeli aggression.

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The Syrian Arab Republic gives a high appraisal of the Soviet Union's peaceful foreign policy aimed at easing tension and strengthening universal peace. Syria highly appreciates the assistance and support which the Soviet Union gives to the just cause of the Arabs and reaffirms the position of the Syrian Arab Republic on a necessity of the Soviet Union's participation in all the stages and in all fields of a settlement of the Middle East problem.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks. They emphasized an importance of regular contacts between them for coordination of the two countries' efforts aimed at further developing and strengthening Soviet-Syrian friendship and cooperation, at establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of foreign affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, expressed gratitude to the Soviet leadership for a warm and cordial reception given to him during his stay in the Soviet Union.

GENEVA MIDEAST TALKS 'MUST RESUME'; PLO ROLE NECESSARY

Timoshkin Commentary

Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 29 Apr 75 LD

[Aleksandr Timoshkin commentary]

[Text] A PLO delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee, arrived in Moscow yesterday on a friendly visit. In a statement to a Moscow Radio representative, 'Arafat said: I am happy to meet my Soviet friends again with whom I will exchange views on urgent questions related to the current Middle East situation. Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that what made the meeting more important was that the situation was still tense in "our region". This is the true nature of the situation. The Israeli aggressors, together with the imperialist forces protecting them, are held responsible for maintaining this tension, for they are still trying, although in vain, to impose their terms for the settlement of the crisis on the Arabs.

It must be stated that such attempts are diametrically opposed to the international efforts aimed at creating suitable conditions for taking effective steps along the road toward realization of a just settlement in the Middle East.

The task of the Geneva conference is, in short, to solve a list of questions relating to a Middle East settlement. The primary question is that of Palestine. The overwhelming majority of the world believes that it will be impossible to solve this question without the participation of the representatives of the Arab people of Palestine in the efforts to attain such a solution. It is known, that the PLO is the lawful and sole representative of the Arab people of Palestine--a fact recognized not only by the Arabs but internationally as well. This fact was underlined in the UN General Assembly resolution of 22 October 1974, which grants UN observer status to the PLO.

However, in spite of all these facts, the Israeli aggressors and their imperialist protectors obstinately continue to ignore this reality. Furthermore, although they do not oppose, in words only, the idea of holding the Geneva conference, they reject the participation of the PLO. Such an attitude can clearly lead only to the failure of the Geneva conference. This view is shared by all those who are sincerely striving to achieve a just Middle East settlement.

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~~USSR-PLO JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON ARAFAT VISIT~~

Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 5 May '5 LD

~~[Apparent text of joint USSR-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) communiqué]~~

[Text] The PLO delegation headed by Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat paid a cordial visit to the Soviet Union from 28 April to 5 May. During the talks, which were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship, between Andrey Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and foreign minister and Boris Ponomarev, candidate Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the PLO delegation, the two sides exchanged opinions on the existing Middle East situation and on the possibilities of solving the problems of the Palestinian Arab people within the framework of efforts to reach a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

On this occasion, the talks dealt with problems related to the Geneva conference on peace in the Middle East. Yasir 'Arafat briefed the Soviet side on the PLO leadership's position of the Middle East problem, the solution of the Palestinian issue and the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for their national rights.

The Soviet side stressed its principled stand of support for the struggle of the Arab peoples to retrieve all the occupied Arab territories and to achieve the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to establish their own national state.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that the legitimate demand of the Palestinian Arab people to have their national rights respected enjoys increasing international recognition as reflected by the resolutions of the 29th UN General Assembly session. The two sides expressed the firm opinion that peace and security [amr; TASS in English at 2107 GMT on 4 May, reporting on the communiqué, renders this phrase "peace and tranquillity."] cannot be established in the Middle East unless the Palestinian issue is resolved in the interests of the Palestinian Arab people. The importance of the participation of representatives of the Palestinian Arab people, on equal footing with the other concerned parties, in the efforts to reach a Middle East settlement, including the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East, was noted.

The meeting's participants noted the great importance [TASS in English at 2107 GMT 4 May renders this phrase "...the special importance in present-day conditions..."] of the coordinated efforts by the Arab countries and the PLO in the struggle for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and against all separate deals divorced from a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On behalf of the PLO and all the Palestinian Arab people, Yasir 'Arafat expressed his thanks for the Soviet Union's firm [TASS English has "...firm, consistent..."] stand of support for the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and all the Arab peoples in their struggle to eliminate the consequences of Israeli aggression.

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During the PLO delegation's stay in the Soviet Union, meetings and talks were held with the representatives of Soviet public opinion in the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity. Members of the delegation attended the May Day workers parade in the Red Square. The delegation also visited Baku, the capital of the Soviet republic of Azerbaydzhan, where it met with party and government leaders and also with representatives of the workers in the republic.

The two sides believe that the visit by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation he is heading to the Soviet Union and the talks and meetings held contribute usefully to the expansion and consolidation of the cordial relations between the Soviet Union and the Palestinian Arab people.

#### COMMENT STRESSES NEED FOR COMMON SOVIET-ARAB POSITION

Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 5 May 75 LD

[Unattributed commentary "In the Interest of Guaranteeing the Legitimate Rights of the Arab Palestine People"]

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has ended its friendly visit to the Soviet Union. This was not the first visit to our country by a delegate of the struggling Arab Palestinian people. The visit once more proved the permanent character of Soviet-Palestinian relations. The visit takes on particular significance in the situation now prevailing in the Middle East.

Despite a pseudocalm, now and again marked by some Israeli provocations against Lebanon, the tense situation in the area not only continues but is worsening. All this is primarily due to the fact that any decisive action to settle the Middle East problem is persistently obstructed by Tel Aviv and its protectors, who are still trying to substitute so-called partial measures for a comprehensive solution of the crisis. Plans by the aggressors and the institutions of its protectors to procrastinate over future settlement of the Middle East problem by resorting to this sort of action have been laid bare.

The Soviet Union fully supports the Arabs in their bid to end the procrastination plan and to insure that practical steps are taken in this connection as soon as possible. This alone is likely to open the widest scope for joint Soviet-Arab actions. Soviet leaders and representatives of the leadership in Egypt, Syria and Iraq met and talked before the Soviet-Palestinian contacts. During all these contacts, a detailed exchange of views took place on the situation in the Middle East, and particular interest was attached to working out a common attitude and coordinated actions regarding the Palestinian problem.

Tel Aviv and those behind it are aware of the effect of these steps: this is why they are trying to impede them. The last few days, Israeli propaganda and pro-Zionist Western propaganda have been doing their utmost to convince people that some kind of Soviet-Arab difference exists over how to insure settlement of the Middle East problem. A lot of lies have been circulated about the Palestinian issue. For example, the New York TIMES has tried to create an impression that the Soviet position depends, in some respects, on the U.S. position and even on the Israeli position.

To foil these fabrications, it is very important for the Soviet Union and the Arab states to very precisely define a common position toward the Palestinian issue. In this connection, it is necessary to clarify the situation in a way that denies the aggressor and its protectors any maneuvering.